

I was forced to retire from airline flying upon reaching age 60 in December 2000 as a result of 14 CFR 121.383(c). At that time, I was a Captain for Spirit Airlines. I was able to transfer to the Spirit Flight Operations Training Center as a ground school and simulator instructor, however at roughly half of my previous pay scale, and having to move my family and household from New Jersey to Florida. My flying has since been limited to very rare FAR 91 ferry and maintenance test flights on the same DC-9 and MD-80 aircraft, and recurrent simulator proficiency check flights. This was necessary as I have never had the opportunity to work for major airlines, and my only retirement plan is what I was able to build for myself through IRA and 401(k) plans. As such, still ineligible to receive Social Security, even at reduced benefits, I was forced to continue working in the only field I have known for 41 years, albeit not the chosen discipline. I am still medically and mentally qualified to fly these aircraft, and in fact maintain currency in flying the very same aircraft, often over the very same routes, although only under FAR 91.

FAR 121.383(c) was instituted as a favor of the then (Dec. 1959) FAA Administrator, Gen. Elwood Quesada to the American Airlines CEO, C. R. Smith, for financial reasons only, and is perpetuated to this day by the FAA through fraud and deceit. This fraud and deceit center around citing discredited studies and data as justification for a rule which never had, and still does not, have any scientific, safety or medical basis in fact. It was purely financial at its' inception, and even ALPA's and APA's opposition to deleting or changing the rule are still based on purely financial motives.

Myt purely financial motives are quite opposed to theirs, as well as the fact that I absolutely love to ply my chosen profession and wish to have that opportunity again. I urge you to support this petition, and grant not only the requested exemptions to the petitioners, but to entirely overturn this unfair, unscientific and fraudulent rule.